



National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

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## SUBJECT: Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15, 2005)

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During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15, 2005), the Nation is recognizing the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries. The NASA family also takes stock of the many accomplishments and notable successes of Hispanic Americans who are our colleagues, friends, neighbors, and family. The contributions of our Hispanic colleagues have greatly benefited NASA, and more specifically Goddard Space Flight Center, in areas such as aerospace engineering, electronic component design, and acquisition management.

Of the many accomplishments, I will highlight two noteworthy individuals. Dr. Mario Acuña, trained as an electrical engineer and space physicist, has been associated with GSFC since 1969 where his interests have centered on aerospace instrumentation and experimental investigations of the magnetic fields and plasmas in the solar system. **Dr. Acuña will be the keynote speaker for an upcoming Mars Exploration Colloquium and Latin Music Exhibition on October 12, 2005.**

Orlando Figueroa, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, is changing the face of system engineering. In September 2003, Mr. Figueroa was appointed to the position of Director for the Solar System Division in the Office of Space Science at NASA Headquarters and was recently named the Director of System Safety and Mission Assurance here at GSFC. Goddard employees are encouraged to attend the **Hispanic Luncheon where Mr. Figueroa will be the featured keynote speaker on October 4, 2005.**

Within NASA, we value and understand the importance of a diverse workforce. We recognize and respect our individual differences while celebrating the similarities and values that unite us. With this understanding, we acknowledge that as an important segment of the American populace, Hispanic men and women have the same dreams of peace, freedom and prosperity for themselves and their children as do all Americans.

For Goddard employees in the Greenbelt area, the Hispanic Advisory Committee is sponsoring various events in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, most notably **Paella Night on September 23, 2005** **Hispanic Heritage Month Luncheon on October 4, 2005** and a **Latin American Music Exhibition on October 12, 2005**. For more information about these and other events recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month, please visit <http://eeo.gsfc.nasa.gov/hace/events.html>

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I encourage all Goddard employees to participate in observances for Hispanic Heritage Month. This is an appropriate time for Goddard employees to salute the proud contributions made to our Nation by Hispanic American employees and their families.

***Original Signed By***

Edward J. Weiler  
Director